Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) stand declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). A unit-wise revival package for these companies has been prepared for submission to the BIFR, which inter-alia envisages revamp of their operating units. Since it was felt that revamp of Gorakhpur unit of FCI and Haldia project of HFC was not techno-economically feasible, and the revival of these units would require setting up of new plants involving fresh investments of the order of approximately Rs. 810 crores and Rs. 910 crores, respectively, the Government has proposed hiving off of these units to other entrepreneurs. However, any final decision regarding the future of Gorakhpur unit and Haldia project would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

(c) The revival package proposes to offer Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FPARD) of HFC to the concerned State Governments for being absorbed by them on agricultural extension work.

New public sector fertilizer units

8385. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: (a) whether Government has any plans to infuse more funds to establish more public sector units in the fertilizer sector;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted on the need to strengthen the Indian fertilizer sector;

(c) whether Government will seek foreign collaboration for setting up new fertilizer plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Currently, the emphasis is on the public sector undertakings themselves generating funds for their expansion without any budgetary support, to the maximum extent possible. Ecepting expansion of Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) based plant of M|s. National Fertilizers Ltd. (costing Rs. 987.30 crores), Ammonia Replacement Project of M|s. FACT (costing Rs. 618.43 crores) at Cochin and modernisation|revamping projects, no new grass-roots fertilizer unit is currently under implementation in the public sector. M|s. National Fertilizers Ltd. are proposing expansion of their Panipat (Haryana) plant to produce additional 7.26 lakh tonnes of urea per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crores.

(b) Demand-supply projections of fertilizers on long term basis have been worked out to indicate the scope for additional capacity build-up in the fertilizer sector.

(c) and (d) In so far as the fertilizer industry is concerned, the Industrial Policy of July, 1991 envisages automatic permission for foreign technology tie-ups and equity participation under certain conditions. However, presently there is no proposal for foreign equity participation in any public sector fertilizer project.

Upgradation of Jorhat Science College

8386. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for the upgradation of the present Jorhat Science College in Assam;

(b) when was the original proposal received by Government from the State Government; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by Government on the proposal?